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PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
STAMFORD HILL 2262 (three lines)

December 25, 1953

WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO THEM?

THE Daily Worker for December 12 tells of the change of outlook that occurred to Second-Lieutenant David Larder, a 19-year-old officer who had been on service in Kenya.

Accompanying the account is a photograph of Lieutenant Larder in uniform with a Sten gun, that had been taken for recruiting purposes, and which it seems he had at one time regarded with pride. There is also the photograph of the naked back of a man whom he had shot dead with a Sten gun, tearing away his left shoulder. This photograph had been taken by Lieutenant Larder, who had also chopped off the right hand from the dead body to take back to his headquarters for finger-printing.

David Larder adds that he also had a photograph taken of himself shaking hands with the corpse and in a letter written shortly afterwards describing what had happened he asked, "What has happened to me?" a question he was to ask himself again following other incidents of Kenya warfare in which he participated.



Lieutenant Larder, shortly afterwards deliberately disobeyed an order, was court-martialled, made no attempt to defend himself, and was dismissed from the army.

Mr. Larder sums up:

"Young chaps due for call-up have got to realise the terrible things they are expected to do—and made to do—out there."

"Any decent feelings they have will be completely broken down. They will do things they would not think possible, things they would never dream of doing to their own people at home."

(We remark parenthetically that we have seen no account of Mr. Larder's story in any other newspaper, and we should like to know why. Which of the two likely explanations is the true one? Did Mr. Larder tell his story to the Daily Worker because he found that no other newspaper would publish it, or have the other newspapers kept away from it because it has appeared in the Daily Worker?)



This painful story, it will be observed, is a very topical one, coming just after the trial of Captain Gerald Griffiths. Captain Griffiths shot two Africans in the circumstances described in his trial by court-martial. Lieutenant Larder, when he took the photograph, and was photographed, was taking part in an ambush of two Africans. It occurred last June, shortly after the incident for which Captain Griffiths was put on trial.

Of the two men Lieutenant Larder's party was seeking, one escaped and the other was the one shot and photographed.

Let it be noted that there was no question of Lieutenant Larder being tried by court-martial for what he had done. There was nothing of the doubt about it that had attached to the action of Captain Griffiths. What Lieutenant Larder had done was followed by his court-martial, but his trial was of his own seeking.



We wonder whether Captain Griffiths ever asked himself, as did Lieutenant Larder, "What has happened to me?" Possibly not; Captain Griffiths had been an officer in the regular army for 13 years, while young Larder was a lad of 19.

There is a question, however, that every citizen of this country should ask himself. The cases of Captain Griffiths and Lieutenant Larder are not isolated happenings. They are just two instances of a great many similar occurrences that it happens have been given some publicity. How many other lads—decent kindly lads when they left their homes—have since asked themselves "What has happened to me?" How many are asking themselves that question today? How many are likely to have to carry a haunting feeling of guilt to the end of their days?

And it is surely for those who have willed that these lads shall be placed in a situation in which "any decent feelings they have will be broken down"—who have approved the legislation necessary—in their turn to ask themselves "What have we done to them?"



We are writing here of Englishmen, and of what Englishmen are forcing upon Englishmen. The question however is one that citizens of other lands may also very well ask themselves: in France, in the USA, in China, and in Russia.

Dulles does it again

MR. FOSTER DULLES has told the French that unless they ratify the EDC at an early date there are likely to be no more American dollars for them, and by repeating this threat at a Press conference he has, at least indirectly, interfered in French domestic policy, as he did in the recent German elections.

France is facing the difficulties of a Presidential election and responsible statesmen there have been anxious to keep the issue of EDC out of it.

Mr. Dulles has ruined their efforts in the hope that he may be able to force upon France a President who stands for a policy which the French Assembly has not yet accepted. Moreover, he has intimated a refusal to contemplate any amendment of the existing Treaty and a probable withdrawal of American troops from Europe. Was it a threat or a promise?

When he said of the Western nations "If they decide to commit suicide, they might have to commit it alone," his choice of words was unfortunate. EDC as part of the Western system of defence has contributed to the international tension and the armaments race. If the Western Powers insist on integrating Germany into it, it makes the reunification of Germany impossible and creates in Europe the equivalent of the 38th Parallel in Korea.

It is part of a policy which, if persisted in, makes war increasingly likely, and it is a third world war which spells suicide to all concerned.

If EDC goes

Mr. Dulles might ask himself what value there would be in a ratification which was against the considered judgment of the majority of the French people, and obtained by extreme pressure and threats.

The reaction in France as contrasted with Germany has been the opposite to that which Mr. Dulles hoped, and strong resentment is expressed which may well decide some of the hesitant deputies to vote against ratification.

Many responsible Frenchmen are speaking of the most serious crisis in Franco-American relationship since the war. One leading official is reported to have said "This is the end of the Treaty."

If that prophecy should prove true, Mr. Dulles may have done unwittingly a greater service than by any of his premeditated actions.

With EDC dead the Berlin conference would be more free to discuss a peaceful solution of the German problem, and Britain and America would have to rethink their defence policy in terms which could contribute to the lessening of international tension instead of increasing it.

The irony of history

A PROFOUND irony underlies the pressure that Mr. John Foster Dulles is exercising upon France to bring about "European unity" in the European Defence Community.

Two wars, it has been claimed, have been fought to destroy the terrible threat of German militarism. At the end of the second of these wars a new constitution was constructed for Germany that, so long as it was observed, would make it impossible for a large German army to be recruited once more.

All the leading statesmen of the world had complete certainty that this was necessary, and they found themselves in the fortunate situation that the great mass of the German population agreed with them.

Less than five years were to pass and, with

Eisenhower and the atomic dilemma

I SPENT most of last week at what turned out to be a very successful Conference on the Church and Peace held in Detroit under the auspices of the Church Peace Mission.

This is the agency established in May, 1950, after a similar conference in Detroit, and brings together all the Christian pacifist bodies in this country including Mennonites, Quakers, Brethren, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and a dozen denominational peace or pacifist fellowships.

Peace News will doubtless soon carry a report on this conference and I may wish to comment on it. However, it seems almost inevitable that the present letter should be devoted to a report on the reactions on this side to President Eisenhower's address at the UN on December 8, and to some attempt at evaluation of its meaning.

The at least seemingly bold proposal that governments in a position to do so make contributions from their stockpile "of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency" and that the materials should be used to supply needs in such fields as medicine and agriculture and especially "to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world" has, for one thing, to a considerable extent blanketed the publicity about Senator McCarthy's heresy-hunting activities.

Restoring a waning prestige

Taken together with the firm rejection by Eisenhower and Dulles of McCarthy's demand that the US attempt to "forbid" Britain and other Allies to engage in "blood-trade"—McCarthy's phrase, of course, not Muste's—with Communist China, the President's proposal for an atomic energy pool apparently indicates that he now intends to exert much more initiative than has been the case since he took office.

The restoration of waning prestige at home is almost certainly one of the important objectives the Republican high Command had in mind in working out the President's dramatic appearance at the UN.

Reports received here indicate that in Western Europe and elsewhere the President's move has had the effect of arousing hopes that the US is more ready than she has been thought to be to explore the possibilities of relaxing tension and perhaps achieving a settlement of vexed problems. In view of the difficulties being experienced in holding the

BEHIND THE NEWS

the exception of France, all the leading statesmen of Western Europe and of America had become convinced that their earlier confident decision had been a mistake and that it was necessary to bring the German people to an acceptance of rearmament and a renewal of military conscription.

The fact that they had been mistaken a few years earlier raised no doubts in their minds about their present wisdom.

They were now equally certain that they had been wrong before but right now. Except the French; but everybody knows about the fickle instability of the French.

Hitler tried it

The irony goes deeper, however. One of the things that Hitler offered—or with which he threatened—Europe, was unity. There was to be a "New Europe," such was the term, and it was to be imposed as a result of a German victory; naturally therefore it would be a new Europe in whose unity Germany would be dominant.

But Hitler was not victorious and this new and unified Europe was not constructed by him. Eight years afterwards, however, Mr. Dulles, head of the US State Department, calls and has a discussion with Dr. Adenauer, the leader of the German people; on the following day, at the meeting of the NATO Council, he makes it clear to the French, that the French have so many months to decide to ratify the European Defence Treaty, and accept German rearmament and the new Europe—or else!

After Nuremberg

ALFRED KRUPP, head of the immense Krupp undertakings in Germany, was released from prison in 1951, having served only part of the sentence imposed upon him at Nuremberg.

His firm has been expanding at a rapid rate and is concerned with projects involving steel processing and civil engineering in a great many parts of the world. Alfred Krupp says that he is no longer interested in manufacturing arms and the management have said: "We shall never produce guns again." We wonder whether it will be in 1954 that under American pressure the policy will be changed and Krupp will begin the manufacture of armaments again, or whether it will take until 1955.

A gleam of hope

THE return of Senator Nixon, US Vice-President, from his tour in the Far East, coincided with the three-day conference between President Eisenhower and his Congressional leaders, and with the sharpening of the political conflict between the Administration and Senator McCarthy, due to the belief that the President is moving towards some understanding with China.

Before his tour Senator Nixon had tended to support the view of Senator Knowland and the McCarthyites that Communist China must always be hostile to America and could not be tolerated. Senator Nixon's visits to stra-

tegic places in the Far East are believed to have modified his previous view and it is thought that he now intends to support Eisenhower's policy, as against McCarthy.

It would be over-optimistic to expect the Administration to propose the recognition of the Peking Government in the immediate future, but the influence of Senator Nixon may be decisive in preventing McCarthy foisting on Congress the policy of the mailed fist.

There seems to be a greater possibility now of a more reasonable American policy in regard to China, and even a decision by the Administration that they would not oppose any renewed proposals for the recognition of the Peking Government by UN.

If President Eisenhower should re-establish his leadership of the Republican Party in face of the new challenge of Senator McCarthy, his success would be reflected by a more reasonable attitude of the Party towards the fear of Communism at home, and of the Administration towards Communist countries abroad.

The Colonial Policy Debate

IF the challenge to the Government's colonial policy on December 16 had come from the small group in the Labour Party among whose spokesmen are Mr. Fenner Brockway and Mr. Leslie Hale there could have been a genuine assault upon the fundamentals of the policy that the Government is pursuing.

As the proposed censure was presented as an official Labour Party motion, however, it could only represent a piece of shadow-boxing, and Mr. Lyttelton had little difficulty in showing that this was so.

For the fact of the matter is that in its essentials the colonial policy pursued by this country is a bi-partisan affair, kept out of the party clash to an even greater extent than are the issues of foreign policy.

Year after year Labour Party conferences show clearly how little attention organised labour has felt it necessary to give to the principles of colonial policy.

It is only upon secondary matters of administration that any genuine disagreement develops between the parties. Much of the argument as to which is pursuing the common policy more satisfactorily is quite evidently mere party manoeuvring.

"Conservatives, Liberals and Socialists," said Mr. Lyttelton, "all believe in giving an ever-increasing share in the management of affairs to African peoples." He went on to remark that there is no argument about this, and that is true; all parties agree in "giving an increasing share in management. What none of them are prepared to do, now or in the foreseeable future, is to admit that Africans, as Africans, may exercise real control over their own affairs.

There may in the distant future be a "partnership" in which, say, 200,000 Africans will stand as an equal partner beside 2,000 Europeans; there is not to be in Africa, as long as it can be resisted, anything comparable to the kind of democratic self-government that exists in the countries of Western Europe.

There is only one way in which the term "partnership" in the sense in which it is used today can have any moral significance, and that is if there is a partnership between the two races in bringing the Africans to the stage at which they are to control their own affairs.

To have reality it would be necessary for such a partnership to be linked to target dates for the achievement of independence in the colonies, as advocated by Mr. Leslie Hale, and reported in Peace News on December 11.

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LETTER FROM U.S.A.

By A. J. Muste

even to begin manufacturing them, upon their great-power Allies."

The contemplation of such problems is very painful, and it may well be that as the NATO conference opens and the Four Power Foreign Ministers' Conference looms, Eisenhower wished to provide some diversion and relief by conjuring up the vision of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The Soviet Union has not summarily dismissed the Eisenhower proposal, nor could it afford to be put in the wrong by doing so. We must hope and pray that serious discussions may take place.

I regret to say that I cannot think that strong optimism is warranted.

Eisenhower himself suggested that his proposal furnished a way of bypassing for the time being the impasse relative to control of atomic weapons, the "irritations and mutual suspicions incident to any attempt to set up a completely acceptable system of worldwide inspection and control."

But does this plan furnish a way to bypass the problem of the armaments race? The race in atomic weapons is to go on while the small experiment is discussed, perhaps tried.

Two closing observations. Atomic Energy Commission chairman, ex-Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, focussed attention on the point that "the power-starved areas of the world look to us and our technology." This reminds one of the emphasis the Soviet Union has put on "benign uses of atomic energy."

Is it possible that Eisenhower is aware that the latter may be in a position before long to offer help to some power-starved areas, and wished to offset the appeal this would have in such areas?

My chief reflection is that the American people given the grace to repent would have repented at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. No sustained attempt has ever been made by any of our leading thinkers—whether secular, Jewish, Protestant, or Roman Catholic—to teach them the enormity.

Now we would like to "slam the lid down on Pandora's box of atoms." I think only a people given the grace to repent would have the wisdom and strength to help the world achieve that goal and thus wipe out the folly, the wickedness, and the shame of its decision to catapult the world into the era of atomic war.

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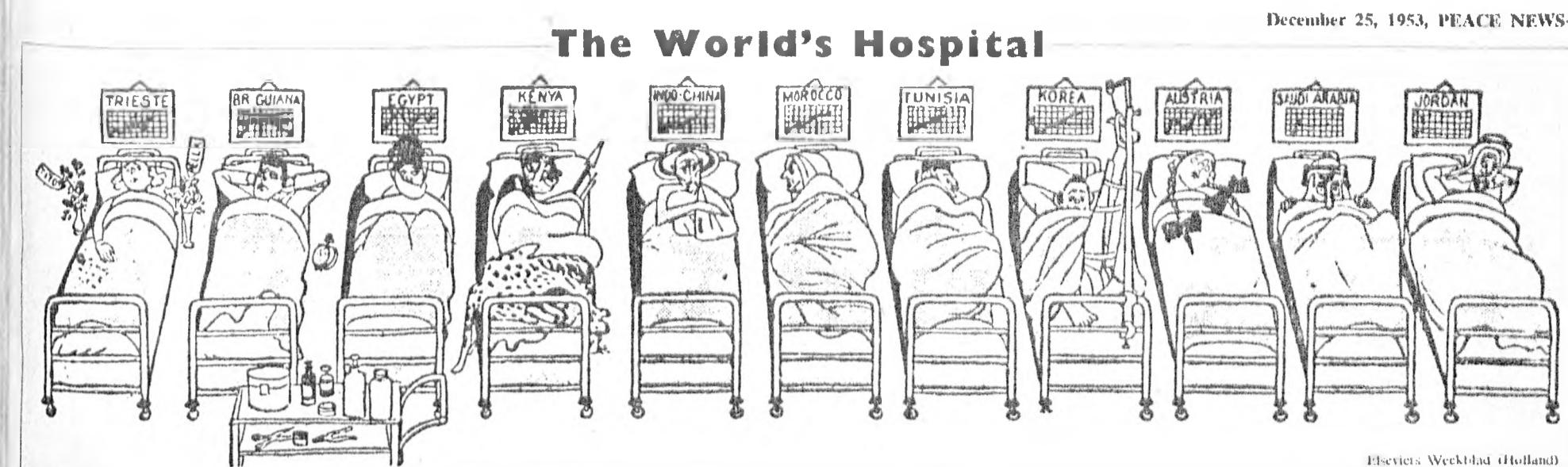
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December 25, 1953, PEACE NEWS—3

YOUR WORLD AT CHRISTMAS

BRITAIN: Restrictions on the export of arms to Spain are to be relaxed. The Minister of food, Major Lloyd George said that it was not in his power to employ licensing regulations to prevent racial discrimination in hotels and catering establishments. The Green Park Hotel had stated in correspondence that it is its policy to enforce a colour bar. 10,932 wartime deserters are still unaccounted for. 3,008 took advantage of the amnesty granted earlier this year. Steps are to be taken to resume the conscientious objectors' tribunal in Leeds which has not been sitting since August. COs have had to travel to Birmingham or Manchester.

CENTRAL AFRICA: In the elections to the first central African federal parliament the Federal Party of Sir Godfrey Huggins, one-time Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, has swept the board.

KENYA: 153,398 persons have been arrested since the emergency began. On October 24, 355 Africans were on remand awaiting trial, 10,497 were in prisons throughout the country, 1,497 were in detention camps and 97 Kikuyu had died in captivity.

USA: One half of all the coal ever consumed has been burned since 1920 and half the oil and gas ever consumed has been burned since 1940. The annual world burn-up of sources of energy in 1950 was 10 times that of 1850.

SWITZERLAND: Experiments in the decentralisation of industry are showing that it is of indubitable advantage to the localities benefiting by it. The Bulletin of the Swiss Bank Corporation says "The money earned in the workshop is added to the yield of traditional agriculture, of which it is as it were, the complement. Local trade is stimulated. Industrial decentralisation may well, in the long run, have a favourable influence on the whole Swiss economy."

The atoms do it too!

In a description of the atom Mr. Earl Ubell says in the New York Herald Tribune:

"The picture inside the core is one of bedlam—ions and v-particles flying around and around colliding with neutrons and protons, somewhat like blindfold birds in a cage. The particles recombine, break apart, and combine again."

How like a picture of what goes on outside the core!

STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT

The title bears no reference to the threatened railway strike which is still planned as I write, although all will be sincerely hoping that a settlement may be reached which will secure justice for all concerned and avoid the extra difficulties which a stoppage over Christmas would involve.

What it does urge is that you should respond to the appeal for the Peace Pledge Union's Headquarters Fund while it is still fresh in your mind. Whatever else may happen, banks and post offices will be open, except for the normal holidays, and if posts are delayed, your cheque or postal order will reach us eventually, and we are keeping our books open until January 9.

Owing to the present Christmas rush this appeal has to be sent in earlier than usual and before there is time to judge the full effect of my predecessor, but I can say that the result so far is encouraging, and I want to thank all those who have responded, some of them anonymously. I shall have one further opportunity of reporting progress. Please, please, make it possible for me to announce then that we have again reached our aim of £1,000 for the year.

You will be reading this at Christmas, and I want to send from all at Dick Sheppard House our very best wishes that whatever may be the external circumstances at home or abroad, you will have a happy time with many expressions of goodwill and a real sense of peace. May the understanding of what Christmas really means become the basis of international relationships, as it is the inspiration of our continued work for peace.

STUART MORRIS,
General Secretary.

Amount received to date: £695
Your Christmas gift: ?
Our aim for 1953: £1,000
Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund," to the PPU Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

Canon Raven accepts Patriarch's invitation TO VISIT RUSSIA NEXT YEAR

CANON RAVEN, President of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and former Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, has accepted an invitation from the Patriarch of Moscow to visit Russia.

This was announced by Canon Raven during the course of a public meeting which he addressed in Southend on "What we can do for Peace."

Canon Raven, who is a Chaplain to the Queen, told his audience that he did not believe the arguments used through the ages by sophisticated Christian thinkers to enable them to acquiesce in a "just war" were applicable to war as it had become.

War today meant the indiscriminate killing and torture of millions of people just because they happen to belong to a locality under enemy control. It meant the sort of thing that had devastated Korea—the scorching of human beings by fire bombs—the sort of thing that had happened at Hiroshima.

"I do not think any intelligent person can justify that without tearing up his Christian convictions," he said.

Not the way to a better world

At this critical moment in world history peace was a matter not only for great leaders but all human beings. It had been proved that a people got the kind of Government it deserved and the kind of destiny it deserved.

He believed profoundly it was most important to bring home to the people of this country the need for peace because they had a tremendous and unique responsibility.

"Whatever our attitude to pacifism we can at least look at this question in the light of our Christian conviction," he said. "I suppose we all feel that the first thing we can do for peace should be done through the churches. We are members of various denominations but we are banded together in Christ."

"Surely it is perfectly plain we cannot follow Christ's example and accept responsibility for war."

"Our primary obligation as Christians is to take our religion with a new seriousness—not to go on making the best of both worlds."

"The way of war is not the way to bring in a better world. There is the obligation to our country. It is not that we do not desire peace as individuals but feel, as members of a community, that some of its resources should be spent in rearmament."

"This is in spite of the myriad warnings in history of the fallacy of 'To prepare for peace Prepare for war.'

He believed an appeal to fear only bred fear. An appeal to hate only produced hate. The way of war instead of securing peace stimulated those passions and emotions which fed the will to war.

Mau bombing—a warning

"The right way to fight Communism is to relieve distress," said the Canon. Magnificent and constructive statesmanship might prevent the spread of Communism in India and Asia.

Asked if the use of Lincoln bombers in Kenya against Mau Mau was compatible with Christian ethics, the Canon said:

A LEAD BRITAIN SHOULD FOLLOW

The Danish Government has said that it does not find it appropriate at present to accept NATO's offer to station allied air forces in Denmark in peacetime.

The Government decided recently not to proceed with the enlargement of two airfields which had been put in hand by the previous coalition Government.

Churchmen condemn Kenya terror

A statement issued by Church leaders in Kenya, including the Bishop of Mombasa, says:

"We feel it our duty to record the abhorrence with which we have read the published record of evidence given before a civil court and a recent court-martial. We know our feelings are widely shared. We have repeatedly expressed at the highest level our grave concern at the abuses of power by certain members of the forces of law and order."

PLIGHT OF U.N. DELEGATES

from MARTIN JACKSON

UNITED NATIONS delegates are unprepared for the revision conference due to be held in 1955. Mr. James Avery Joyce prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Norwood, told a meeting at Friends House, London, last week.

"They don't know where they are going or how to get there. Far too many of them are completely under the influence of their foreign offices."

Mr. Joyce, who recently returned from the UN Assembly in New York was talking to a joint meeting organised by Federal Union and the Crusade for World Government.

He attended the sessions of the Assembly's Sixth Committee which discussed preparatory work on UN reform. He complained:

"The big power conflict kept breaking in. Delegates from the Communist countries insisted UN Reform was an American stunt. Most of the time was taken up by this cold war prattle."

Mr. Joyce stressed the need for campaigning for a revised UN Charter to turn the organisation into a world federal government.



AT SCHOOL IN SEVAGRAM
Basic education techniques are taught in schools like this at Sevagram, the Basic Education Centre to which some of IDPA's trainees have been sent. Part of the students' education is to prepare meals for the school as these three young men are doing.

First report from the mid-twentieth century pioneers

THE International Development Placement Association, the organisation which assists qualified young people who wish to do "War on Want" work in needy areas of the world, has just published its first annual report.

It is a lively and interesting account of the first official year of life of a vital pioneering organisation. The main concern of IDPA is to obtain information on development projects and on the personnel anxious and fitted to work on such projects—then to put the two together.

Basic Education work at Sevagram, Gandhi's centre in India; agriculture in Uganda; university work in Indonesia; teaching in Iraq—these are some of the jobs being done by men and women placed through IDPA. The emphasis of the Association is on service. Most of the jobs do not carry high salaries, and may often require to be performed at the risk of physical privation and danger to health. IDPA asks for recruits who are willing to accept this as part of their service work.

What kind of people apply for IDPA jobs?

The Report says: "It would not be an exaggeration to say that all kinds of people come to IDPA—people who want to do good, people who want romance and adventure, people who want to run away from their environment."

"But the average applicant is a mid-twentieth century pioneer who wants to help in the development of the world's economy and who sees that the great frontier that remains to be opened is the frontier which affords a decent standard of life to all people."

"Sometimes the IDPA applicant is a person who wants to gain valuable experience abroad under difficult conditions. Later he hopes to apply this experience to a full-time career with agencies like the United Nations and the Point Four Programme."

"Occasionally he is a person who feels limitations in his present environment which

might not exist in young, vital countries that are entering the new world of science and technology with a spirit of flexibility and daring that is missing in some of the western countries that are old to the ways of this century."

Further information for intending applicants and others can be obtained from IDPA's office at Carnegie Endowment International Centre, 345 East 46th Street, New York 17, New York, USA.

Flash-back

Peace News

Just what did the peace movement do in 1953?

Next week's Peace News will tell you, IN PICTURES!

The events and people who helped to take the world a little further along the road to peace and freedom in that year will be recalled in two pages of pictures and stories.

You helped to make those events too. Buy an extra copy and pin it up on the wall. Better still, send it to a friend in Reykjavik or Burnley or Omsk. If you haven't got a friend send us the money and we'll do the rest.

But whatever you do—don't miss next week's issue.

Copies of Peace News for free distribution may be obtained at 2s. 6d. dozen post free from 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4. (News wrappers 3d. dozen extra).

VERA BRITTAI concludes

Humanity versus Policy

In the first part of her article, published last week, Vera Brittain compared the impersonal brutality of man to man displayed at Hiroshima, Belsen, Buchenwald and Dresden with the compassion witnessed after the North Sea floods and the Harrow rail disaster and asked: "Which aspect of mankind is the truer picture?"

WHATEVER the answer, most of our everyday social regulations are based upon a well-justified expectation of decency, kindness and commonsense in the majority of men and women.

Our traffic laws rest on the supposition that most travellers will respect each other's safety, and refrain from running somebody down the moment that they take to the road.

Our postal system reflects a soundly-based assumption that the mass of mankind can be trusted with other people's possessions.

Governments and local authorities alike would soon cease to function if they could not count on forethought, consideration, and reliability in the ordinary man and woman.

Why then do human beings so readily allow their virtues to be prostituted, their native goodness impaired? The explanation is often given, and sometimes accurately, as a failure of imagination, that quality which William Blake described as "the real and eternal world of which this vegetable universe is but a faint shadow."

Civilians and soldiers

"Everyone must have noticed during the war," wrote Bernard Shaw in 1919 in the Preface called *FAMILY LIFE IN GERMANY UNDER THE BLOCKADE*, "the contrast between the ferocity of our civilians and the reasonableness and companionhood of our soldiers from the front . . . It means that the civilian neither sees nor knows what he is doing, and that the soldier sees it and has to do it."

But though numerous people are sensitive only to the suffering under their eyes, lack of imagination alone does not account for every example of inconsistent behaviour. Many of the individuals who hastened to send valuable parcels of clothing to Lynmouth or Canvey Island came from distant parts of Britain, and even from foreign countries, geographically no nearer to the flood victims than Londoners to the mothers and children who perished by drowning in the German valleys. Yet in the one case imagination functioned, and in the other it did not. Again we can only ask why.

One answer lies in the sinister power of modern war propaganda, whether the war involved be "hot" or "cold." If Truth, as Lord Ponsonby wrote, is the first casualty in war-time, the power to feel compassion is certainly the second. Only a mentally blunted minority of human beings are naturally cruel, but callousness, and especially mass callousness, can be and has been created.

The weapon now described as "psychological warfare" is perhaps the worst feature of modern war, since instead of attacking the body it corrupts the spirit.

Three centuries ago, when Milton produced the splendid *Inventio of ARROGATICA*, propaganda was a high art which sought not to corrupt but to persuade. It has

been said that his pen was worth as much to the Parliamentarians as Goebbels' broadcasts to the Nazis, but the executioners of Charles I did not require Milton to violate the humanity of his enemies, or to commit those crimes against their moral and spiritual integrity of which Nazi and Communist alike have been guilty.

The modern deterioration of propaganda from a noble literary instrument into a pseudo-refined form of barbarism is itself worthy of study by psychologists.

Decency and ruthlessness

A second explanation of the gap between human decency and political ruthlessness lies in the fact that the State and its laws invariably lag far behind the van of public opinion. The legal system of any country tends to become that which is acceptable to the lowest common denominator of national morality. As the Scottish poet, the late William Soutar, wrote in *BUT THE EARTH ABIDES*:

*"Men are more gentle than their laws
Which doom or justify.
And are more righteous than the cause
For which they kill or die."*

This representation by the State of the baser rather than the finer aspirations of man humanity has two consequences.

First, it leaves the "lowest common denominator" without any incentive to spiritual reformation, since his standards are those which appear to be officially upheld.

Secondly, it offers to the better citizens a socially approved outlet for the more violent instincts which they normally suppress, and even dresses up these instincts in the martial glad-rags of patriotic virtue.

The basic dilemma of our time consequently lies in a perpetual conflict between the morality demanded from us as individuals by our churches, schools, and civic duties, and the immorality which the State accepts and even commands.

Formidable as this problem undoubtedly is, we have observed in recent years occasional pointers towards one or more solutions. Not least encouraging is the growing recognition by teachers, preachers, writers, and other leaders of the people that State amorality, though it appears at odds with decent human impulses, begins like those impulses in the individual heart, and can there be overcome.

When Tom Hopkinson, in a series of articles in the *Sunday Express*, described many marriages as examples of "undeclared war," he was in fact stating, though perhaps unintentionally, that we cannot condemn the politicians for cold wars so long as the chill violence of mutual hostility dominates our personal relationships. If reconciliation is unattainable within a family, what right have its members to demand international peace from statesmen?



RESCUE FROM DUTCH FLOODS
Russia gave thousands of pounds

tionally, that we cannot condemn the politicians for cold wars so long as the chill violence of mutual hostility dominates our personal relationships. If reconciliation is unattainable within a family, what right have its members to demand international peace from statesmen?

States, as well as individuals, show generosity in disaster.



VERA BRITTAI

From such a beginning, it is not difficult to apply the same moral to our behaviour towards acquaintances and even strangers.

"How can you blame the delegates of the United Nations," asked the Vicar of St. Martin's on Remembrance Sunday 1952, "if you can't get along with your neighbours going home in the bus? DON'T PUSH!"

Side by side with our realisation that wars originate within ourselves, comes a new demand that States and Governments shall begin to approximate towards the standards set by the highest types of individual.

Gandhi's legacy

Mahatma Gandhi made this challenge to India, and though the Nehru Government has often been criticised (and not least Premier Nehru himself) for falling far short of Gandhi's example, the initiative, patience, and resolute independence which it has shown at the United Nations Assembly and elsewhere has given other Member-States a new conception of the lengths to which conciliators should be prepared to go.

But India is not alone in her approach to collective morality.

Some American aid has gone to Asian countries, such as India herself, where the only possible "co-operation against Communism" lies in the elimination of the social evils on which Communism thrives.

States, as well as individuals, show generosity in disaster.

THE ROAD BACK

By Alfred Hassler

The writer is editor of "Fellowship," monthly journal of the American Fellowship of Reconciliation, in which "The Road Back" first appeared.

are we all to become shepherds? In that case, who should rule? Or are all to be wise men, and then who should do the work?"

"To be more explicit—" Melchior turned a large diamond ring thoughtfully among his fingers—"consider the economic implications of such brotherhood? We are rich; they are poor. We are powerful; they are weak. I need not say more to a man of such wisdom as you, Balthasar."

Balthasar nodded ruefully.

"I am newly impressed by the profundity of your thinking—both of you," he said. "My own had not gone to such specifics. The brotherhood of which I spoke was more, in my mind—their essential worthiness—in the sight of the Eternal."

"This by all means," agreed Melchior soberly.

"We are creatures of the One Creator," intoned Caspar.

□ □

Silence fell upon them again, but it was the silence of minds in harmony. It was Melchior who broke it for the second time.

"The sense of aura has become so highly developed in you, friend Balthasar, I would know what else you sensed in our visit. Had you any premonition about the Child and His mission?"

"Most certainly," Balthasar replied promptly. "Never have I perceived one portent for the future lay in the confluence of our presence and theirs? I would not wish to be misunderstood—but we with our most precious gifts, and they, humble shepherds with naught save their adoration—I think we must all have felt how equally acceptable they were in the sight of the Most High."

"Aye," said Melchior reverently.

"And this portent of which you speak?" asked Caspar.

"Surely a portent of the true and equal brotherhood of all men!" exclaimed Balthasar enthusiastically.

He looked up to see his companions regarding him quizzically.

□ □

"Well?" he challenged. "Did you not sense it yourselves?"

"When you say 'true and equal brotherhood,'" Caspar disregarded the question—"I am not certain exactly what you have in mind. Our gifts and theirs were accepted, yes, but we are still wise men and they are still shepherds, is it not so? As wise men and rulers we have the responsibility to look after our shepherds and workers in kindness, but

OUT OF THE YEARS

Out of the Years, by Rosa Waugh Hobhouse, Ditchling Press, 6s.

ROSA WAUGH HOBHOUSE'S many friends and admirers will be delighted to see this second book of her poems, "Out of the Years," with its beautiful drawing by Edna Clarke Hall of the author as a young girl.

Rosa Hobhouse has chosen to include poems written, I believe, in her teens, with those of more recent years, and consequently the book varies greatly in power and technique. But all the freshness and candour which Lawrence Binyon commented on over twenty years ago remain, and several of the more recent ones are also fine vehicles for the expression of a sensitive and fearless spirit. We might all wish that more of the poems commemorating the Coronation of Elizabeth II had had the austerity and tenderness of that on page 73, beginning "Such weight of tribute! such excess of honour . . ."

Very different, but equally lovely, is a little lyric which I give myself the pleasure of quoting in full:

*How shaken was my heart last night
With tears before I slept,
And yet it was a golden thought
That spurred me as I wept:
For is not love a golden thought
At which full many weep?
And since my grief came unawares
Swift-gathered from the deep,
Perhaps it was my soul had need
Of tears to fall asleep.*

There are many others which I believe have an equal chance of pleasing the poetry lover.

GWYNETH ANDERSON.

At the time of the Assam earthquake, Pakistan came forward instantly with a substantial gift of grain, though the Indo-Pakistani conflict over Kashmir was still unresolved.

Similarly, during the North Sea floods, Russia gave thousands of pounds towards the repair of the damage to both England and Holland, and Germany, as though in a gesture of forgiveness for the war-time breach of her dams, became one of the first European countries to send practical aid.

Decency on the part of uncorrupted individuals appears to be a reaction on which society can count.

When States start in earnest to emulate the goodness of the ordinary people, the foundations of a bridge across the gulf between private and public morality will have been laid, and mankind can go forward with the hopeful slogan of courage on its banner—"Sursum Corda!"



"No" Balthasar seemed a little surprised at his own vehemence. In a milder voice he continued, "The truth is, Caspar, I could not even see Him taking the sword for his own defence. I can see him refusing to take the sword, in love. I can see him denouncing evil, while loving the evil-doer. I can see him—his voice faltered a little—"taking evil on himself, without ever retaliating and without ever shutting off his love. That is what I can see."

"I suspect," said Melchior drily, "that your precognitive faculties may not have been at their usual high level Balthasar."

"You think I am wrong. Why?"

"In the first place," said Melchior, ticking the points off on his jewelled fingers, "this is not the kind of Deliverer we were led to seek. Second, he would rouse no enthusiasm among the people. Third, he would upset the whole accustomed order of things. Finally, he will not work."

"In short," added Caspar, "the sort of thing you have outlined is just not practical."

"In what way?" inquired Balthasar sub-brownly.

"Be realistic," urged Caspar good-humouredly. "When you speak in the kind of generalities you used it doesn't sound so bad. In fact, it has an appeal to something that lies deep inside each of us. It is when you try to apply it to real situations that its essential impracticality shows up."

"Give us an example of the kind of thing you mean, Caspar," urged Melchior.

"Well," Caspar thought rapidly—"almost any ordinary situation would do. Suppose, for example, a man were to walk with his wife down a road and she was suddenly assaulted by a ruffian. What would your man of love do in such a situation?"

"I have a feeling," said Balthasar drily, "that like so many of your pithy formulations, Caspar, that one will not go unrepeatable."

Caspar looked at him sharply.

"I do not like you when you become sarcastic, Balthasar," he said. "In any case, and whatever your perceptions may have been, I predict that when He has reached our age, he will have modified these ideas substantially."

Melchior looked at them both sombrely.

"Only one thing I am sure about," he said. "If He attempts to live in the way our friend Balthasar surmises, he will never reach our age."

He dug his heels viciously into the camel's sides.

"Get along, you beast of many bones!" he commanded. "I would not live out the rest of my years on this cursed road!"



LORD PONSONBY

Truth the first casualty

been said that his pen was worth as much to the Parliamentarians as Goebbels' broadcasts to the Nazis, but the executioners of Charles I did not require Milton to violate the humanity of his enemies, or to commit those crimes against their moral and spiritual integrity of which Nazi and Communist alike have been guilty.

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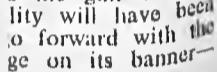
ETH ANDERSON.

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1. Send notices to arrive not later
than Monday morning.

2. Include : Date, TOWN, Time,
Place (hall, street); nature of event;
speakers, organisers (and secretary's
address)—preferably in that order and
style.

ABBREVIATIONS : Anglican Pacifist Fel-
lowship, APP; Fellowship of Reconciliation,
FOR; Methodist Peace Fellowship, MPF;
National Peace Council, NPC; Peace with
China Council, PWC; Peace Pledge Union,
PPU; Society of Friends, SoF.

Tuesday, December 29
MANCHESTER : 1-2 p.m.; Deansgate Unit
Site. Christian pacifist open-air meeting. Local
Methodist ministers and others. MPF.

1954
Saturday, January 2

LONDON, S.W.1 : 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; B
ayle St. Poster Parade; "Demand a new
Colonial Policy," Congress of Peoples against
Imperialism. Non-violent Resistance Group.
Box A.R.B. 6894 or STA 2262 for details.

OXFORD : 7.30 p.m.; Friends' Mtg. Ho.,
Belmont Rd. New Year Party. All welcome.
Oxford CO Fellowship.

Wednesday, January 6
FINSHUR PARK : 7 p.m.; 3 Blackstock
Rd. Discussion on future programme. Non-
violent Resistance Group.

Thursday, January 7
LONDON, W.C.1 : 1.15-1.45 p.m.; Church
of St. George the Martyr, Queen Sq. Weekly
one-hour Service of Intercession for World
Peace. Conducted by clergy and laymen
of different denominations.

LONDON, W.C.2 : 12.30 p.m.; Lincoln's
Fields. Open-air meeting. Sybill Morrison
and Robert Horniman. PPU.

OXFORD : 7.30 p.m.; 43 Newness Ave.
Box 8 bus terminus. Come and help reconstruct
the local Peace Pledge Union Group. PPU.

Talking Point TOO MANY PEOPLE?

By Frank Hancock

If you are a stranger to and from your
work, and you are cooped up in two rooms
in an in-law's house, if your child is in an
overcrowded class with fifty other children,
and for a good part of the year you get one
egg per person per week, you may have
pondered whether it is a service to anyone to
bring another body into a world of shortages.

Just round the corner you know of a
family of six or more in two rooms; across
the seas you know of millions who go through
life, hungry.

The warning cry comes from almost every
country, "We have too many hungry people." The Canadian press foresees that Britain will
have to emigrate fifteen out of her fifty
millions. Italy is as badly off. The Far East
is infinitely worse off. Agricultural methods
can be improved, deserts irrigated, worked-out
soil fertilised, and so on. But Nehru warns us
that all these measures will but cope, for a
definitely limited time, with the expected
increases in population, and will never affect
the many millions of half starved people now
existing.

If we cannot plan our food production
according to our population, we must plan
our population according to our resources.
Which is what every really good parent does.
But there is an insidious encouragement to
increase the number of babies born, for
"cannon fodder," while in less "civilised"
countries there is an unthinking mechanical,
calamitous increase of new babies, who can
only become famine fodder. It is surely better
that they should never be born.

A common cause of war has been the need
of expanding nations for more room, and
more trade. Even where there is no conscious
demand for "a place in the sun" the mere
bulging increases of population in virile
nations lead to those pressures upon frontiers
and colonial outlets and markets that have so
often led to war. One is prompted to ask: Is there a right of parenthood in a world that
cannot feed and house its present population,
nor give its present families even a fair chance of
peaceful life?

Mrs. Roosevelt once called for a "Motherhood
Strike," until the world was made more
fit for children to be born into.

"Another baby" is a tragedy in poor over-
crowded homes. We live in that sort of world.
Nehru has the courage to recommend birth
control in India; and the World Pacifist Meet-
ing in India advocated "conscious control of
population increase, of which pacifists should
set an example."

Undermining!

REFERRING to the Government's claim
that the establishment in British Guiana
of the Pioneer Youth League undermined the
Boy Scouts organisation, Mr. R. Parker,
Editor of London Forward, speaking at a
London Co-operative Party meeting at
Bromley said:

"It would be equally stupid to argue that
the British Labour Party's League of Youth,
the British Federation of Young Co-operators
or the Young Conservative Association were
guilty of the same thing in this country."

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December 25, 1953, PEACE NEWS—5

Letters to the Editor

Orchard Lea Papers

THE publication of the Orchard Lea Papers
may turn out to be one of the most
important things that have happened since the
war.

Adumbrating, as they do, the conditions of
a society free from the tensions and fears
which lead to strife, domination and war, they
offer a valid long-term solution to the supreme
problems of the present day.

The question naturally arises: What can we
do now?

While it may not be feasible or right for
many of us to take immediate steps to alter
our manner of living, we can all dig out for
ourselves the moral principles which underlie
Mr. Wellock's propositions and strive to live
them. And, while testing them out on the
lesser problems of our daily life, we can study
the achievements of those communities in
India and elsewhere which appear to have
largely inspired Mr. Wellock's renunciation of
our materialistic society.

By so doing we would not only accumulate
a fund of practical knowledge about the special
problems of the Creative Society, but we
would build up the ethical dynamic which
must be its motive force.

Steps should be taken at once to form a
Research Group to examine the practical
implications of Mr. Wellock's thesis.

R. A. JAURALDE.

Still Waters,
Wrexham, North Wales.

an individual relationship but also a com-
munity relationship.

This is not to say that the normal factors
of sex or love attraction will not have their
proper place. In fact once the individual is
shorn of the "innocence" of conventional in-
hibitions and repressions a natural restraint
and inclination becomes apparent. This
natural quality is essentially modest, for it is
not mere reaction to sex barriers or provocation.
In practice it makes some individuals
near or even quite "celibate," while others,
finding their fundamental and true response
different can naturally, and equally rightly, be
quite sexually versatile. In this way, as in all
other ways, the individual finds its fittest com-
plement in community life. Exclusive forms
of marriage lose their place as community
comes to its truest and fullest realisation.

The environment as it affects the children
will reveal the degree of understanding
reached. If the adults are uninhibited the
children will be likewise. They in turn may
then know the true liberation of life and its
fulfilment which is happiness because it is
freedom.

HAROLD HANSEN.

New Zealand.

Payment of taxes

THE short answer to Mr. Downham (PN
December 18) is that the government of
this country regard arms expenditure as
Priority No. 1, and therefore the refusal of
tax payment by pacifists would weaken only
the social services.

It is of course possible to live on an income
below taxable value, but if all pacifists adopted
this procedure there would be little money
left over for schemes of practical peacemaking
—so much more valuable than any negative
gesture.

The subject is, however, frequently discussed
by pacifist groups in this country, as in
America.

"VERONICA."

(Name and address supplied)

THE COLONIAL PROBLEM

Is adequately surveyed in

EMPIRE IN CRISIS

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN CAMPS

Will the Home Secretary face up to this scandal?

SIR DAVID MAXWELL FYFE, the Home Secretary, has recently made statements in the House of Commons about the increase of crime associated with homosexuality and has said that the recent visit of high ranking police officers to the USA is due to the desire of the Home Office to inquire into the methods employed by American police authorities in dealing with this problem.

I am sure that the Home Secretary is anxious to do everything in his power to face the problems with which his department has to deal and, as public attention has now become directed to homosexuality as a result of some recent cases, I ventured to suggest to Sir David Maxwell Fyfe that there is another problem of a similar kind which also calls for inquiry.

I refer to the problem that has arisen in several parts of the country following the establishment of American military camps and air bases in Britain.

Maxwell Fyfe's reply

On Thursday, December 17, I put the following question to the Home Secretary:

"To ask the Secretary of State for the Department what steps he is taking to deal with the menace in sexual crime due to the presence of United States Air Force Camps in this country."

The question was not reached that day, but I received the following written answer:

I have no evidence to support the suggestion that members of the United States forces have been responsible for an increase in sexual crime in the accepted sense of the term. It may be that the hon. member has in mind the wider problem of serious immorality which arises in the neighbourhood of service camps, especially when men are serving abroad. The presence of large numbers of men in camps inevitably tends to attract women and girls of a certain type, but the police, who are responsible for the maintenance of public order, are alive to the problem and, with the fullest co-operation of the American authorities take all possible steps to deal with it."

Now what I had in mind in putting the question were the remarks made by the Lord Chief Justice at the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on December 10.

Open and shameless scandal

It does not seem that Lord Justice Goddard was quite as satisfied as Sir David Maxwell Fyfe with the situation which he went out of his way to describe as "an open and shameless scandal."

Here is the report of the case as published in the Eastern Daily Press of December 11:

"The facts of this case reveal a deplorable and shocking state of affairs in the neighbourhood of King's Lynn due to the presence in the neighbourhood of an American Air Force Camp," said the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Goddard) in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court yesterday.

"It is to be assumed," added his Lordship, "that this has been brought to the attention of the American military authority, who will no doubt do all they can to stop what is nothing more than an open and shameless scandal."

The court allowed an appeal by the Norfolk police from a decision of the Recorder of King's Lynn quashing the conviction of Robert George Mayes, of Keene Road, King's Lynn, on a charge of living in part on the earnings of prostitution.

CONVICTION RESTORED

Lord Goddard said the conviction would be restored and Mayes (a married man with four children) would serve three months' imprisonment—the sentence properly passed by the magistrates."

Giving judgement, Lord Goddard, with whom were Mr. Justice Sellers and Mr. Justice Barry, said a considerable number of prostitutes were in the town and it was difficult to understand the finding of the Recorder that they were given, by the Americans, food, drink and clothing but not money. Mayes was a taxi-driver employed by another man, who had been similarly convicted, and they were engaged in the scandalous activity of encouraging and assisting prostitution.

Women went with the Americans in the car driven by Mayes, for which a standard charge of £2 was made to take the Americans back to their camp, and 10s. was charged for shorter journeys. It was contended that no money or reward had been paid to Mayes by any of the women and that the money paid to him by the Americans was for the use of his house and the car. One of the women had stayed at his house for a month on terms that she should pay for her board and lodging by bringing an American to the house at least once a week. She did this and Mayes was paid by the American.

MONEY EARNED BY WOMEN

The Recorder had come to the conclusion that the Vagrancy Act did not extend to that class of case. It seemed to his Lordship that the money was earned by the women although it was not paid to them, and the Act was wide enough in its terms to cover the offence of which Mayes had been convicted.

A travesty of triumph

During the Potsdam Conference, (1945) the US War Secretary received a message: "Babies satisfactorily born." This meant the atomic bomb trial had succeeded . . . We had contemplated the desperate resistance of the Japanese fighting to the death . . . requiring the loss of perhaps a million American lives and half that number of British . . . Now, in its place was the vision—fair and bright indeed—of the end of the whole war in one or two violent shocks . . . We seemed suddenly to become possessed of the merciful abridgment of the slaughter in the East . . . At any rate there was never a moment's discussion as to whether the atomic bomb should be used or not . . . there was unanimous, automatic, unquestioned agreement around our table . . . to bring the war to an end, to give peace to the world . . . by a manifestation of overwhelming power at the cost of a few explosions seemed . . . a miracle of deliverance . . .

The President and I no longer felt we needed Stalin's aid to conquer Japan . . .
—Sir Winston Churchill, Vol. VI, The Second World War, Daily Telegraph, December 15, 1953.

WE have, perhaps, "supped so full of horrors" that the revelation in the Prime Minister's Memoirs, of complete, and apparently delighted, agreement in the use of the atom bomb on Japan, will no longer shock the British people.

Yet it remains true, that when the first knowledge of it burst upon a world already seared with the news of wrecked buildings, shattered dams and tens of thousands of human beings blasted to pieces and drowned, as though (to quote the Archbishop of York) they were no more than "worthless flies," there was suddenly a deep sense of shock and dismay.

Rightly so, since the use of those "babies" so "satisfactorily" conceived in the devil's womb, and brought forth in the horrible evil of war, has stricken the world with a fear that has resulted in even more terrifying and monstrous births, which may well bring about the annihilation of the human race.

Yet the Prime Minister, whose gaze is fixed, according to his own words, upon the prize of world peace, had so little sense of the consequences of this dread discovery and its use, that now, eight years afterwards, he can write of it as "a fair and bright vision."

The decision to use a weapon that was to destroy human beings wholesale, to leave

others crawling in their burned and blackened skins upon the roasting earth, and to spread disease and deformity for generations to come, was not only greeted as a "merciful deliverance" and "a miracle," but was accepted without one single question, let alone any sign of uneasiness, as the right course to pursue.

That it would be a "manifestation of overwhelming power" was the main and the overriding consideration, and the Japanese people were, obviously, regarded as less than human, since the phrase "a few explosions," as a description of the effects of the atom bomb, plays down the truth to the depth of a most appalling lie.

The man who writes of this horror as though it were comparable to a few squibs let off by children on Guy Fawkes day, is the man who now seeks to save the world from war by agreeing to the manufacture of even more frightful weapons than the "one or two shocks" which destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Since there was no hesitation about the decision to use the atom bomb, and since it was agreed that Stalin, who was also in Potsdam when the fateful message arrived, should not be told, it is scarcely surprising that the Kremlin has no faith in the constant Western protestations that their armaments are only for defence. Particularly as Russia must now know, what Churchill unflinchingly publishes in his latest volume, that Japan had already approached Stalin with a request for peace terms on which to negotiate.

The war could have been ended then, without further slaughter of Americans, or British, or Russians, or Japanese, if the insatiable appetite for overwhelming victory and unconditional surrender" had not driven ordinary humanity from the field.

Churchill calls his last instalment of War Memoirs, TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY. The tragedy to him is that there was no triumph; he was defeated at the polls when he was certain of success, and victory had not secured peace. The tragedy for the world lies in the fact that its people continue to be governed by those who believe, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, that peace can be secured by war.

If the tragedy of a divided world in conflict is to be turned to the triumph of peace, it will be only by the work and the faith of those who stand, diametrically and unfalteringly, opposed to the doctrines expressed in this book!



H. W. FRANKLIN

casing the sufferings of the unfortunate Korean people, then indeed this Christmas period will be remembered for all time.

Since he wrote those words, the shooting and napalming in Korea has come to an end, and some kind of peace—uneasy though it may be—actually does exist in that unhappy and divided country. We can at least take heart that men like H. W. Franklin have in some measure created the climate of opinion that has ended that war, and that they use their influence to remind Trade Unionists and others that the menace of war still throws its shadow across every expression of Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
London and Middlesex Quarterly Meeting Peace Committee.

CONFERENCE FOR COS.

Young men (and women too) who are considering standing as Conscientious Objectors and would like to discuss the matter, are invited to a one-day Conference to be held at Westminster Friends Meeting House, 52 St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2

on Sunday, January 17

commencing at 2.30 p.m.

Speaker: Eric S. Tucker Tea provided

A postcard to Aubrey Brocklehurst, Friends House, Euston Road, N.W.1 from those hoping to attend would be appreciated (but it is not essential).

FRANKLIN OF THE N.U.R.

A pen portrait by Robert Greacen

In the recent negotiations brought about by the strike threat of the railwaymen, H. W. Franklin, the President of the National Union of Railwaymen, had an important part to play.

His present term of office expires at the end of this year, so this may be a singularly appropriate time to take a quick glance at the career of a man who, for three successive years, ranked as chief officer of his Union.

As it happens, the NUR is one of those unions that insist on strict democratic procedure. Although the President is finally decided on by a majority vote of the 77 delegates to the Annual General Meeting, a candidate for Presidency must be nominated by his own Branch—and it is usual for him to have the nomination of a number of other Branches as well.

Mr. Franklin's vigorously and frequently expressed pacifism has not apparently stood in the way of the highest honour his fellow Trade-Unionists can confer.

During the three years of his Presidency Mr. Franklin, in accordance with custom, gave up his job as a Gloucester signalman. He will return to his ordinary work in the New Year. A railwayman all his life, he has been active in NUR affairs for many years and served for 3 years, before becoming President, as a member of their Executive. Keenly interested in Co-operative Society work, he has been a member of several

In this Christmas Day issue it might be fitting to recall the words of the outgoing NUR President, written exactly a year ago:

The common people of this old world of ours still yearn for peace between nations. Wars and international conflicts are not created in the homes of ordinary people, but they know all too well the suffering caused by these horrible events.

The motto of the BBC was: "Nation shall Speak Peace unto Nation," and if during the Christmas period of 1952 and the New Year of 1953 some tangible expression of goodwill can radiate from the minds of all nations that are at war in Korea, thereby